

In examining various common animals of our household, Prof. Leidy had found a thread worm, infesting the common house-fly. The worm is from a line to the tenth of an inch long, and lives in the proboscis of the fly. It was found in numbers from one to three in about one fly in five. The parasite was first discovered in the house-fly of India, by the English naturalist, Mr. H. J. Carter, who described it under the name of *Filaria Muscæ*, and suggested the opinion that it might be the source of the Guinea worm, *Filaria Medinensis* in man. Mr. Carter states that he found from two to twenty of the worms in one fly of three. Dr. Diesing referred the parasite to a new genus with the name of *Habronema Muscæ*. The singular position in which the worm lives suggests the many unsuspected places we have to search to find the parents or offspring of our own parasites.

*Notice of some Fresh Water Infusoria.*—Prof. LEIDY remarked that a species of Limnias, belonging to the order of wheel animalcules, or Rotatoria, was exceedingly abundant in our rivers. It lives in a tube, of its own construction, attached to aquatic plants and stones. He had not been able to determine whether it was a different species from the *L. ceratophylli* of Europe. The latter is described as solitary, but the common Limnias of our rivers is remarkable for the dense bunches that it forms. In many localities of the Schuylkill almost every stone exhibits multitudes of such bunches, pendent from the sides and under part. The bunches are conical, and usually one tube serves as a pedicle, while the others hang from it and often curve outwardly. From two or three to as many as fifty tubes may be counted in a bunch. This fasciated character may distinguish the animalcule as a variety, which might be named *L. socialis*.

The bunches of Limnias form a support for a multitude of other animalcules. Among the latter, *Cothurnia pusilla* is quite common. Prof. Leidy had also observed upon the bunches on several occasions the curious branching infusorium described by Ehrenberg, and also described and figured by Claparede under the name of *Dendrosoma radians*. This measures a half a line or more in length, and terminates in branchlets, each with a rounded end, from which project a multitude of delicate rays, extending as much as the one-twelfth of a line in length.

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SEPTEMBER 1.

The President, Dr. RUSCHENBERGER, in the chair.

Fifteen members present.

Dr. NOLAN, having announced the death of Dr. JOHN HAMILTON SLACK, made the following remarks:—

Dr. Slack was born September 23d, 1834. After graduating from the Department of Arts of the University of Pennsylvania, he made a tour of Europe, Northern Africa, and the Nile, and was elected a member of the Academy in July, 1857. During the same year he presented valuable specimens of Egyptian natural history and antiquities, for which the thanks of the Academy were formally returned. The next year he presented for publication a paper, which appeared in the Proceedings under the title "Catalogue and Notes on the Egyptian Antiquities in the Museum of the Academy." In the spring of 1859 he graduated from the Medical Department of the University, and at once applied himself to the practice of his profession and the study of natural history. From this time until his removal from the city he was an active and enthusiastic worker in the Academy. His name appears in the Proceedings as a constant contributor to the museum and library, and also as the author of three papers on Mammalogy, the most important of which was a monograph of the Prehensile-tailed Quadrumana of South America. The work, however, by which he will be longest remembered as a member of the Society is his Handbook to the Museum, the first edition of which appeared in 1861 and was rapidly exhausted. A second edition was immediately issued, and of this, also, several thousand copies were sold, showing that the Handbook supplied a want long felt, and which, in consequence of the partial rearrangement of the collections, again exists.

Dr. Slack was elected Librarian of the College of Physicians in December, 1864, and served until December 31, 1867. He removed from the city in 1868 to his estate in Warren County, New Jersey, which he named Troutdale, and where he resided until his death, on August 24, 1874, actively engaged in pisciculture. So highly was his work in this field appreciated that he was appointed one of the Fish Commissioners of New Jersey. He also rendered important service as Assistant United States Fish Commissioner under Prof. Baird, during the winter of 1873-74, in hatching nearly half a million eggs of the *Salmo quinnat* received from California, and in distributing the fry to various rivers of the Middle and Southern States. His contributions to the literature of practical fish culture during this time were numerous and valuable.

Dr. Slack was a gentleman of unusually varied attainments. Although he was most devoted to the natural sciences, he exhibited an active interest in literature and art. He possessed talents as a musical composer which, if cultivated, would have secured him a wide-spread reputation. As it is, his arrangement of Home, Sweet Home has rendered his name familiar to thousands who know nothing about his life-work. He extended hearty sympathy and valuable assistance to those who took an interest in the pursuits to which he was devoted; and these, as well as more advanced

students of natural history, who recognized in him a valued associate, will hear of his death with unfeigned sorrow.

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SEPTEMBER 8.

The President, Dr. RUSCHENBERGER, in the chair.

Fourteen members present.

The following papers were presented for publication :—

“Notes on Santa Fé Marls and some of the Contained Vertebrate Fossils.” By E. D. Cope.

“On a new Variety of Helix.” By James Lewis, M.D.

*Notice of a Remarkable Amœba.*—Prof. LEIDY stated that in the early part of last June, in examining some material obtained from a mill-pond at Absecom, New Jersey, he had observed a most wonderful amœboid animal, of which he had made notes, but was not able at the time to make a drawing and satisfactory description. Subsequently he sought patiently for two days in the same material for another individual, but without success. Last week he made a visit to the Absecom mill-pond to seek the curious amœboid, and was so fortunate as to find it again. Prof. Leidy exhibited a drawing of the animal, and described it as follows :—

The animal at rest is spherical or oval, or constricted back of the middle. In the spherical form it measured the one-fifth of a millimetre in diameter; in the oval and constricted form it was about one-fourth of a millimetre long, and one-sixth of a millimetre broad. It is white or cream colored, opaque, or translucent at the border, and was spotted green from food balls of desmids. It moves with extreme sluggishness, and with little change of form. From the fore part of the body the animal was observed to project almost simultaneously a number of long, conical, acute pseudopods, about the one-twelfth of a millimetre long. From the back part in the same manner a multitude of papillaform pseudopods were projected about the one-fiftieth of a millimetre long. All the pseudopods and the surface of the body everywhere bristled with innumerable minute spicules. From time to time more or less obtuse portions of the clear ectosarc were projected, and these likewise were observed to be covered with the minute spicules. The opacity of the animal prevented the exhibition of a nucleus, if such exists.

In general appearance the curious creature resembles one of the forms of *Pelomyxa palustris*, described by Prof. Greef, in Schultze's *Archiv*, vol. x. pl. iv., fig. 9, but in this, minute spicules project only from the posterior disk-like extremity of the body, as they have also been observed to do in the corresponding part of *Amœba villosa*, of Wallich, and perhaps other species.

The general spiculate character of the Absecom amœboid is